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Media Contact:
Rachel Sorvig
Indiana Office of Tourism Development
317-504-5579

State launches Grant Program to Increase Tourism through Thematic Trail Development

Lt. Governor Becky Skillman today launched a grant program to develop, expand and market trails that drive tourism to Indiana communities. The Indiana Office of Tourism Development is now seeking applications for the Indiana Tourism Trails grants.

After successes such as the Pete Dye Golf Trail and the Northern Indiana Art and Earth Trail, Indiana is looking to aid local and regional efforts for tourism-focused thematic trails. Applicants of the Indiana Culture Tourism Trail grant are encouraged to submit trails projects that showcase an area's distinctiveness as well as increase tourism. Grant requests of up to \$10,000 will be considered. Examples of projects include trails that highlight an area's arts, cultures or foods.

"These trails will connect visitors to areas that showcase Indiana's culture, arts and heritage," Lt. Governor Becky Skillman said. "Our tourism industry partners know that visitors are attracted to areas that offer a unique experience. We want to be able to assist in that effort."

Completed grant applications must be received by Friday, April 13. Applicants must be not-for-profit entities. For more information on the Indiana Tourism Trails Development Grant program and to apply for a grant, visit www.in.gov/tourism/ttdgrant.pdf.

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Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. Amy Vaughan serves as the agency's director.